

**NEWS RELEASE**

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Township helps residents to Recycle Right with new campaign

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS (February 5, 2020) – The Woodlands Township has a new education campaign for residents to better understand how to Recycle Right. Between February and April of 2020, Township staff will affix a Recycle Right educational tag to each residential recycling cart. Residents are encouraged to save the tag and refer to it for which items to place in the recycle cart. The campaign is for general education only, as no inspections of cart contents will be made.

“Recent changes in international recycling trade policy have affected market conditions and led to stricter quality standards for recyclable materials. To help meet these standards and keep our residential recycling program strong, The Woodlands Township has set a goal of 25 percent or less contamination in the residential curbside program. Recent contamination rates in The Woodlands have averaged 24 percent, on par with the national average,” says Township Environmental Services Manager John Geiger.

Contamination is considered to be anything in the cart that is not on the accepted recyclables list, which can be found [online](#) on the Township website or on the top of residents’ recycle cart lid. Common contaminants include plastic bags, greasy pizza boxes, Styrofoam, wires and coat hangers. Recyclables that are bundled inside a plastic bag and then placed in the cart are considered contaminants, as well.

The Township reminds residents to please not bag recyclables, but instead place them loose inside the cart. “Severe contamination may cause the entire load of recyclables to be sent to the landfill. It is important for the Township to inform all residents the proper way to Recycle Right by following the guidelines. This ensures materials get recycled, costs are kept low and the success of the program continues,” Mr. Geiger adds.

For more information about recycling in The Woodlands, please visit www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/recycling, email enviro@thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov or call 281-210-3800.

Cart Tagging Procedure

When: February - April

Where: All single-family homes within the Township

What: Township employees will be placing an educational tag on each recycling cart on their regular service day. There will be no opening of lids or inspection of contents.

Residential Recycling Guidelines

1. Do not bag recyclables.
2. Do not put plastic bags in cart.
3. Empty, rinse and put caps back on container.

Recycle

Empty, rinse and do not bag recyclables.



ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS - Recycle only these items. All others are contaminants that harm the recycling process

Acceptable Materials	How to prepare:
Cans - Aluminum, tin or steel cans	Empty and rinse
Cartons – Milk, juice and soup containers	Empty, rinse and keep caps on
Cardboard – Boxes, paperboard and tubes	Flatten boxes. Schedule bulk pickup if needed.
Glass - Bottles and jars of all colors	Empty and rinse. Food containers only. No ceramic, mirrors, plates/cups or pyrex.
Paper – Office paper, phone books, mail, newspaper, paper bags and magazines	Clean paper only. No pizza boxes, paper towels or food stained materials.
Plastic Containers #1-5 – Bottles, tubs and jars	Empty, rinse and keep caps on. Rigid containers only. No plastic bags or film.

Trash

When in doubt, throw it out.



UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS - Anything that isn't on the Acceptable Materials list including these items cannot go in the recycling cart. Seek other recycling opportunity or throw in trash.

Unacceptable Materials (Contaminants)	Alternative disposal options:
Plastic bags, films and case wrap	Any clean, dry and stretchy film other than frozen food bags can be recycled at grocery stores. Examples: newspaper sleeves, bread bags, bubble wrap, shrink wrap and more .
Clothing, linens and home goods	Donate clean, usable items to charitable organizations here . Recycle overly worn items through free curbside service provided by Simple Recycling .
Yard trimmings	Check curbside collection guidelines here .
Pizza boxes	Tear off the clean top for recycling. Throw greasy part in trash.
Chip bags, candy wrappers and food pouches	Flexible packaging must be thrown away. Only recycle rigid containers marked 1-5.
Chemicals, paints and hazardous waste	Check the Recycle More Guide for options.
Electronics and batteries	Check the Recycle More Guide for options.
Shredded Paper	Plain, non-glossy shredded paper can be put into a compostable bag and included with yard waste. Check Curbside Collection Guidelines .
Styrofoam	Check the Recycle More Guide for options.



A new tag will be placed on residential recycling carts to help residents better understand how to Recycle Right.